

PM Insists That No Undue Pressure Exerted In Case

Continued from page 3

but stopped short of apologizing to her.

“Over the past months, there was an erosion of trust between my office and specifically my former principal secretary and the former minister of justice and attorney general,” Trudeau said during a morning news conference in Ottawa on Thursday.

“I was not aware of that erosion of trust. As prime minister and leader of the federal ministry, I should have been.”

He said he continues to believe there was “no inappropriate pressure” put on Wilson-Raybould to relent and offer SNC-Lavalin a remediation agreement rather than proceeding to a criminal trial for bribery and fraud. “I’m obviously reflecting on lessons learned through this,” Trudeau said.

“I think Canadians expect that of us that in any time we go through periods of internal disagreement and indeed challenges to internal trust as we have, there are things we have to reflect on and understand and

do better next time.”

Liberal backbencher Celina Caesar-Chavannes, who announced last week she won’t seek re-election, tweeted her support Monday for Philpott, as she has done repeatedly for Wilson-Raybould.

“When you add women, please do not expect the status quo. Expect us to make correct decisions, stand for what is right and exit when values are compromised. Thank you ?janephilpott for articulating this beautifully,” Caesar-Chavannes wrote.

Trudeau’s former principal secretary Gerald Butts, who also resigned, told the House of Commons justice committee Wednesday that he wanted Wilson-Raybould to seek a second opinion so the government could show it had seriously considered all legal options. Butts provided the committee with a different view on those meetings, saying Wilson-Raybould never told Butts or Trudeau she was unhappy about their meetings.

OSPCA Will No Longer Enforce Animal Cruelty Laws

TORONTO: For the first time in a century, Ontario’s animal welfare agency will no longer investigate and enforce animal cruelty laws.

In a letter Monday to Community Safety Minister Sylvia Jones, the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said it will not sign a new contract with the province after the current one expires at the end of March.

“The current model is just simply not working,” CEO Kate MacDonald told The Canadian Press. “This is a very significant shift in who we are and what we do.” “During the transition period, we will not be accepting complaints or cases dealing with livestock,” said the letter signed by MacDonald and Catherine MacNeill, the chair of the OSPCA’s board of directors. MacDonald said the organization will shift into a support role in animal cruelty investigations, providing animal shelter, forensic evidence collection and veterinary services.

She said the OSPCA would like to see a model similar to that in New York, where the NYPD has an animal cruelty squad that leads investigations and works with the American SPCA, which handles similar support services.

The OSPCA has police powers _ it can enforce both provincial and Criminal Code animal cruelty laws _ under the OSPCA Act that became law in 1919.

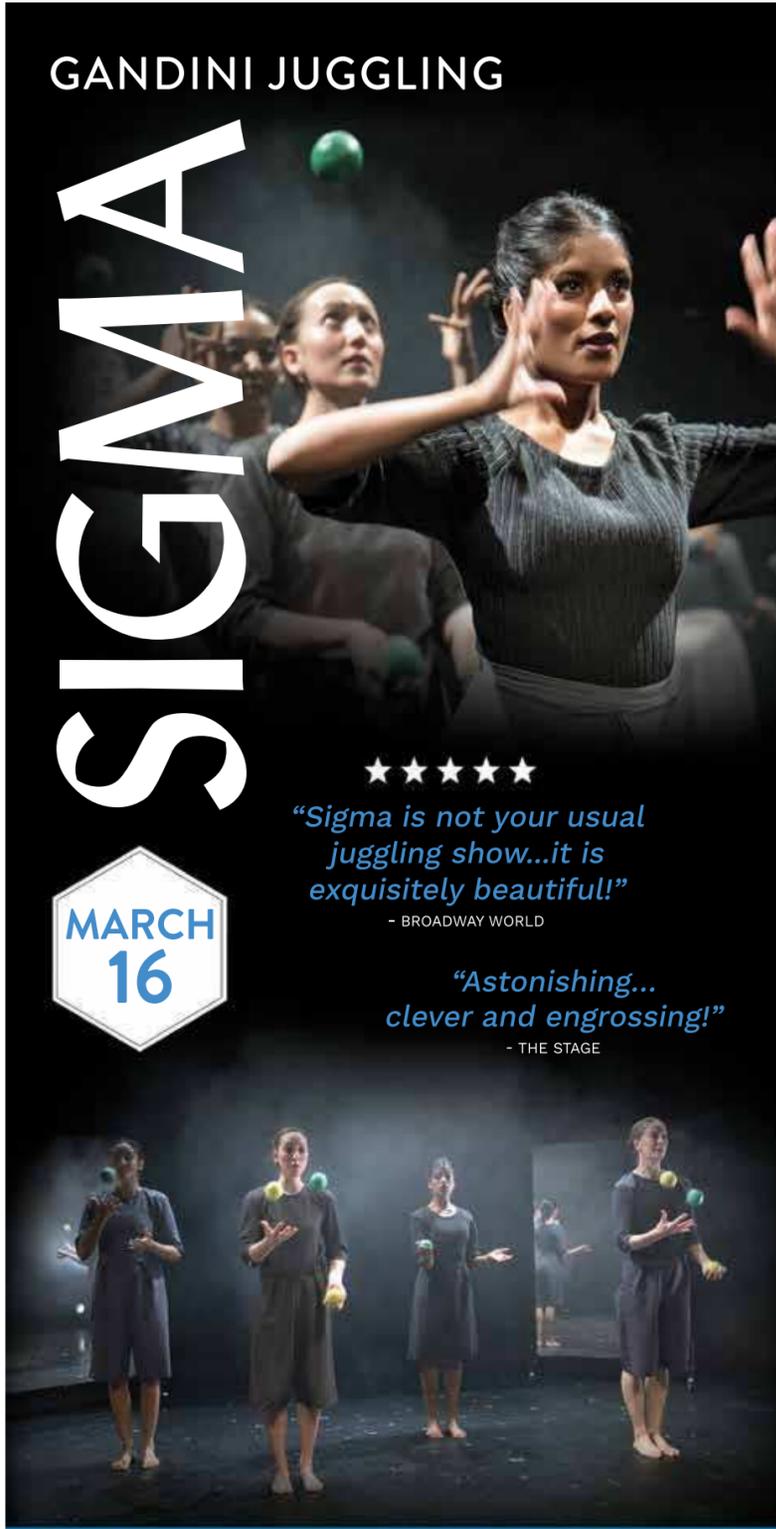
Its role came into question in early January when an Ontario court found the OSPCA’s powers to be unconstitutional and gave the government a year to remedy the situation. The judge said the province erred when it gave police powers to a private organization without imposing accountability and transparency standards on the agency. The province appealed the decision.

MacDonald said the court’s ruling was the “catalyst” in its move away from animal cruelty investigations. “The decision has helped us to see, truly, that enforcement is a function of government.”

GANDINI JUGGLING

SIGMA

MARCH 16



★★★★★

“Sigma is not your usual juggling show...it is exquisitely beautiful!”

- BROADWAY WORLD

“Astonishing... clever and engrossing!”

- THE STAGE

St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts | 27 Front Street E | In association with NOVA DANCE | venue partners

PASSPASS PULSE

AAHA FOODS

TRY THE TASTY TWIST OF PULSE CANDY IN 5 AMAZING FLAVOURS



AAHA Foods [A Division Of SR India Marketing Inc.]

24 Highbrook Drive, Scarborough, ON - M1P 3L3 Ph: +1 416-666-8525, +1 647-831-9149 Email: siva@srimi.com